

DRESS AND GROOMING

The Board recognizes that each student's mode of dress and grooming is a manifestation of personal style and individual preference. The Board will not interfere with the right of students and their parents to make decisions regarding their appearance, however, the standards of appearance for students shall ensure that the student be clean, neat, and properly dressed. They shall observe modes of dress and standards of personal grooming which are in conformity with the studious atmosphere and good personal hygiene necessary in schools. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the principal to see that the dress or appearance of no student shall be extreme to the point of creating a disturbance or is hazardous to oneself, others, or school property. The dress code shall be incorporated into the Student Code of Conduct.

A committee of six (6) members of the student body, chosen by the student government; three (3) members of the faculty, chosen by the faculty; and three (3) parents chosen by the principal; with the principal acting as chairman, shall have the responsibility of preparing a dress code for the school which they represent.

As a minimum, the dress code shall include provisions for the appropriateness of clothing, clothing accessories, and footwear, which will maintain adequate standards of safety, health, and welfare for all students. Beachwear and see-through or otherwise revealing apparel is not considered to be appropriate. Students shall not be permitted to wear clothing which contains printed profanity as defined in Policy 5500, or any clothing, accessories, or regalia that conveys membership or affiliation with a "gang" or other similarly oriented group or association prone to violence or criminal acts. Gang clothing, accessories, or regalia can include, but is not limited to, gang related colors, rolled up bandanas about the head or other parts of the body, knit caps, rolled up or split pant cuffs, certain sports attire that has a "street meaning", etc.

SB 228 amended F.S. 1006.07 to prohibit students, while on the grounds of a public school during the regular school day, from wearing clothing that exposes underwear or body parts in an indecent or vulgar manner or that disrupts the orderly learning environment. Specific penalties for violating this section of the Florida statute are incorporated into the student code of conduct.

The following procedures are established to promote discipline, maintain order, secure the safety of students, and provide a healthy environment conducive to academic purposes. These procedures should not be used to replace the specificity that schools currently have in place in their school site dress codes:

A. **Head**

1. No hats, curlers, bandanas, or sunglasses (unless prescribed by a physician) are to be worn in the school building or hallways.
2. Extreme hair styles, hair colors, or make-up are prohibited.

B. **Upper Garments**

1. Garments must be of a length and fit that are suitable to the build and stature of the student. The cut of sleeveless garments must not expose undergarments or be otherwise immodest.
2. Strapless garments are prohibited. Straps of permitted garments must be a minimum of 1 1/2 inches in width. (Tube tops and halter tops are prohibited.)
3. Necklines of all upper garments must be modest. Low cut necklines are prohibited.
4. Excessively large or baggy clothes, which may conceal dangerous items or be a safety hazard, shall not be worn.
5. Upper garments must adequately cover the waistline and must not expose the midriff while the student is performing normal school-related activities (studying, retrieving books, raising hands, etc.).

C. **Lower Garments**

1. Pants shall conform to the build and stature of the student, shall be worn at the waist, and shall not extend below the heel of the shoe in length. Pants shall have no holes or rips. (Tights, spandex, leggings, bike shorts, etc., are not permitted.)

2. Undergarments shall not be visible. (Sports bras are considered undergarments.)
3. Dresses and skirts must reach mid thigh or below in length with the waistband of skirts worn at waist level.
4. Shorts must have clearly discernable inseams of reasonable length and cover the buttocks. Short shorts are prohibited.
5. Garments must be of a length and fit that are suitable to the build and stature of the student.

D. Footwear

Students in K-6 must wear shoes that are safe and appropriate for recess and physical education. Students in grades 7-12 may wear footwear commonly considered as beachwear (for example: flip flops, thongs, etc.) unless a course of instruction requires them to wear safe and appropriate footwear to protect the student from injury, i.e. athletic shoes in physical education class.

E. Accessories

1. Clothing, jewelry, and accessories shall not convey messages that are crude; vulgar/profane; violent/death-oriented; gang related; sexually suggestive; and/or promoting alcohol, drugs, or tobacco.
2. Pierced jewelry shall be limited to the ear. Dog collars, tongue rings, wallet chains, large hair picks, chains that connect one part of the body to another, or other jewelry/accessories that pose a safety concern for the student or others shall be prohibited.
3. Clear plastic spacers or retainers may be worn in facial piercings. Band-aids cannot cover a piercing.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative procedures to implement this policy which:

- A. designate the principal as the arbiter of student dress and grooming in his/her building;
- B. instruct staff members to demonstrate by example and precept wholesome attitudes toward neatness, cleanliness, propriety, modesty, and good sense in attire and appearance;

- C. ensure that all rules implementing this policy impose only minimum and necessary restrictions on the exercise of the student's taste and individuality.

Students who violate the dress code will not be admitted to class and may be suspended from school.

F.S. 1001.43, 1006.07

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